

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method of receiving information describing an image using a color histogram, the method comprising:

receiving a first sequence of bits and a second sequence of bits, wherein each bit of the first sequence and each bit of the second sequence is associated with a bin and a threshold, and wherein in the order of bits of both the first sequence and the second sequence, no adjacent bits are associated with the same bin.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing a bit of the first sequence with a bit of the second sequence if the bit of the first sequence and the bit of the second sequence are associated with the same bin and same threshold.

3-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the order of bits of both the first sequence and the second sequence, bits associated with the same threshold are grouped together in groups.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the order of the groups is according to resolution of information of each bit of each group.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the order of bits of both the first sequence and the second sequence, each bit is associated with a resolution equal to or higher than the preceding bit.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus configured to receive and process information describing an image using a color histogram, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving and processing a first sequence of bits and a second sequence of bits, wherein each bit of the first sequence and each bit of the second sequence is associated with a bin and a threshold, and wherein in the order of bits of both the first sequence and the second sequence, no adjacent bits are associated with the same bin.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further configured to compare a bit of the first sequence with a bit of the second sequence if the bit of the first sequence and the bit of the second sequence are associated with the same bin and same threshold.

13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the order of bits of both the first sequence and the second sequence, bits associated with the same threshold are grouped together in groups.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the order of the groups is according to resolution of information of each bit of each group.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the order of bits of both the first sequence and the second sequence, each bit is associated with a resolution equal to or higher than the preceding bit.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of describing color information of images using a color histogram, comprising:

selecting a number  $N$  of bins as a subset of  $M$  bins;

quantizing color information of an image using the  $N$  number of bins; and

describing the image using the quantized color information,

where  $N < M$ ,

and wherein  $N$  number of bins and  $M$  number of bins share at least one common threshold.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of searching images described using the method of claim 21.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring information describing an image using a color histogram, the method comprising:

transferring together and sequentially a first bit of each of a plurality of bins;

transferring together and sequentially a second bit of each of the plurality of bins;

and

transferring together and sequentially all the bits having the same association for each of the plurality of bins until all bits have been transferred.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein in the event that the transfer is interrupted before completion, a query can be executed on the transferred portion.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the first bit of each of the plurality of bins is associated with the same first threshold value.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the second bit of each of the plurality of bins is associated with the same second threshold value.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the bits having the same association for each of the plurality of bins are associated with the same respective threshold value.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the first bit of each of the plurality of bins indicates division of a value based on the first threshold value.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the second bit of each of the plurality of bins indicates division of the section of the value divided by the first bit.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein a  $n$ -th bit indicates division of each section divided by a  $(n-1)$ th bit.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of searching images transferred using the method of claim 23.